



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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SBA to Close Disaster Loan Outreach Centers in Lancaster and Santa Maria; Service Will Continue in Carpinteria and Oxnard

Sacramento, CA – Alberto G. Alvarado, Director of the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Los Angeles District Office, today announced that SBA will close its Disaster Loan Outreach Center in **Lancaster**. The center is located at the **Los Angeles County Fire Department, North County Training Center, 42110 6th Street W**, and will close at **5:00 pm** on **Thursday, March 1**. "The outreach center located in **Santa Maria** at the **Santa Maria Town Center, 142 Town Center E**, will close at **5:00 pm** on **Friday, March 2**," he said.

The outreach center located in **Carpinteria** at **The City Clerk Conference Room, 5775 Carpinteria Avenue**, will continue operating **Wednesdays** thru **Fridays** from **8:00 am** to **5:00 pm**, until further notice. The outreach center located in **Oxnard** at the **Oxnard Chamber of Commerce, 400 E Esplanade Drive, Suite 302**, will also continue operating **Mondays** and **Tuesdays** from **9:00 am** to **5:00 pm**, until further notice" Alvarado said.

"SBA's customer service representatives will be available until the centers close to provide personalized service, answer specific questions about how an Economic Injury Disaster Loan from SBA may help each business recover from the freeze and provide one-on-one assistance in completing their loan application," Alvarado added. All business owners who have received an SBA application are encouraged to return it to the outreach center nearest them before it closes.

"So far, SBA has approved more than \$4.2 million in low interest disaster loans to California small businesses hurt by the freeze," said Alvarado.

"SBA's disaster declaration makes low-interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans available to small, non-farm businesses who have suffered financial losses due to the freeze itself or due to freeze damage to crops such as citrus. SBA's declaration makes available these loans to small businesses that are dependent on growers of citrus and other freeze-impacted crops. Eligible small businesses also include those who do business directly with the growers or other agricultural producers such as packing houses, truckers, and suppliers of agricultural equipment or services. Owners of small "main street" businesses whose customers are dependent on agriculture income, such as diners, gas stations, markets, etc. may also apply for these disaster loans," Alvarado added

By law, agricultural enterprises such as citrus growers and vegetable growers are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Citrus and vegetable growers and farmers and ranchers should contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for information on assistance programs they may have available.

For more information visit SBA's website at <http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance>.

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These are working capital loans of up to \$1.5 million at an interest rate of 4 percent with terms up to 30 years. “These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can’t be paid because of the disaster’s impact. The loans also can provide vital economic assistance to small businesses to help them overcome the loss of revenue they are experiencing,” said Alvarado.

After SBA’s disaster outreach centers close, individuals and businesses should mail their completed applications to SBA. Applications and information may be obtained by calling toll-free **(800) 659-2955**. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339. The filing deadline to apply for these loans is **October 24, 2007**.

For more information visit SBA’s website at <http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance>.

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